



MEETING MINUTES

*The Louis Berger Group, Inc. 1001 Elm Street, Suite 203, Manchester, NH 03101
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Project: HAMPTON FALLS-HAMPTON 13408B
Replacement of I-95 Bridge over Taylor River

Meeting Location: Hampton Falls Town Office

Meeting Date: November 10, 2009

Attendees: See below and attached attendee list

Prepared By: Anthony Puntin, P.E.

Re: Public Informational Meeting

The meeting was held beginning at 7:00pm at the Hampton Falls Town Offices. Attached is the attendee list/sign-in sheet. A presentation was made as to the history and current status of the project. The presentation is attached and was mostly focused on new information and data received since the last public meeting in 2007. The presenters/panelists included:

- Bob Landry – NH Department of Transportation
- Bernward Hay – Louis Berger Group
- Ted Diers– NH Department of Environmental Services
- Cheri Patterson – NH Fish and Game Department
- Deb Loiselle – NH Department of Environmental Services

Reference below is made to the alternatives presented. These alternatives are as follows:

- Alternative A: No Action
- Alternative B: New Bridge, Dam and Fishway
- Alternative C: New Bridge, No Dam or Fishway

Following the presentation, questions and comments on the project were received from the audience. Below is a summary. Please note that some comments and questions were very similar or repetitive. These have been condensed into a single item below.

1. It was brought to the attention of the project team that “7 Hickory Lane” has a well that serves 6 houses. The exact location of the well was conveyed to the team after the meeting and forwarded to the appropriate member of the design team for inclusion in the well data.
2. Questions were received relative to the impact to wells if Alternative C is the preferred action. It was conveyed that preliminary investigations concluded that

there was no likely impacts to wells within the study area. It was presented that wells outside of 200' from the study area will likely not be impacted if Alternative C is selected. This information was obtained from studies in other areas, hydrology, geology, and past experience.

3. It was asked how the groundwater elevation in the wells would be affected under Alternative C. It was explained that the deeper bedrock wells are less likely impacted than shallow overburden wells under Alternative C.
4. The height/elevation of the existing dam was asked. The elevation is 8.55 ft NGVD 29. Replacement would be at the same elevation with Alternative B.
5. Questions and comments regarding the Property Value slides were as follows:
 - Have any New Hampshire studies been undertaken relative to the property value impacts? No. The studies referenced in the slide presentation were from other states and are examples of reports that showed a non-devaluation of property.
 - A statement was made that a real estate study done by a real estate professional in NH should be conducted.
 - The availability of the studies referenced was questioned. Bob indicated that the slide presentation along with the previous studies will be posted on the NHDOT project website. The studies are linked in the presentation.
6. It was asked if there are there other NH sites similar to this type of ecosystem. Ted indicated that there are 19 head of tide dams in NH; Stubbs Pond is somewhat similar to the Taylor River project as a former salt marsh that was turned into a pond and located immediately proximate to tidal water.
7. It was requested that the “decision makers” be in attendance at subsequent meetings. Bob indicated that he will relay this request. Bob also asked that the Towns make this request as well if they had a similar need.
8. The need to have a fluvial geomorphologist was questioned. The project stakeholders include Matt Collins (NOAA). He is a fluvial geomorphologist and has been involved in the study. (Please noted that Berger also has a fluvial geomorphologist on the team [Jennifer Brunton] that would be involved in sediment mitigation under Alternative C, if needed.)
9. Questions regarding the need of plans for more sediment contaminant sampling arose. It was explained that Alternatives B or C would need to proceed through state (NHDES) and federal permitting processes. That will determine whether more data is necessary. However, at this time there are no plans for additional sampling prior to selecting the Preferred Alternative. Additional sampling can be provided if the need is presented.
10. Several comments were made relative to the presentation being skewed toward Alternative C. Bob apologized if that is how it was perceived. That was not the intent of the meeting. The meeting focused on presentation of new data. Those items (water quality, fire protection, well supply, property values, etc...) are more related to Alternative C. Bob stressed that no decision has been made and the intent of this meeting is to receive comments on the Draft Feasibility Study

11. The ownership of the dam was questioned. NHDOT owns the dam and bridge.
12. Questions regarding fire protection and public safety arose. The Hampton Falls Fire Chief was in attendance and indicated that the project team has been in contact with the communities and that alternative sources of fire protection (cisterns) have been identified. In addition to fire protection, he is also very concerned about flooding and impacts to public safety which the project will address. He explained the rationale behind the sizing of the cisterns. The capital costs of the cisterns were included in the cost for Alternative C. Long term maintenance costs were not included. The fire chief indicated the volume of the proposed cisterns is adequate and that Mutual Aid agreements will not be impacted. He also stated that cisterns in lieu of dry hydrants connected to the impoundment would not influence insurance premiums.
13. The funding of the project was questioned. Bob indicated that the study was turnpike funded by NHDOT, with additional funds from Gulf of Maine and PREP. Construction is currently programmed 100% Turnpike funds.
14. It was questioned whether the upstream Rice Dam is an issue for sediment and contaminants. The Rice Dam creates a smaller impoundment with less sediment accumulated behind it. Based on sediment reconnaissance analyses, it appears that not much sediment stays in that impoundment and instead mobilized and transported into the Taylor River Pond.
15. It was questioned if compensation for the total costs to homeowners and to the Towns will be made if the dam is removed. Bob indicated that costs were developed to understand the total impacts caused by the alternatives.
16. A question regarding the decision date was posed. Bob indicated that there is not a fixed decision date. Currently, the project schedule includes a preferred alternative presentation in January / February 2010.
17. A statement was made that the pond was created by the State and needs to be maintained by State.
18. It was noted that 2009 was a very wet summer. Will this skew the dissolved oxygen (DO) data? The data was collected in 2008 and is considered representative for the purpose of this study. Data showed that there are times when low DO conditions in the pond create stress for the aquatic fauna..
19. Concerns regarding the loss of recreational opportunities and fishing activities with Alternative C were expressed.
20. It was questioned if the NHDES desire to remove dams is a major factor in decision as to which option will be selected. Ted indicated that there is no agenda at DES to remove dams. Head of tide dams have a large impact to the environment within the coastal zone as they eliminate a gradual transition zone between salt and freshwater ecosystems and therefore reduce habitat diversity. Deb indicated that removal of a dam is one option to the owner which would otherwise require repairs to be in compliance with the Dam Safety Bureau.

21. The value of existing biodiversity within Taylor River pond was questioned. Ted indicated that in a broader landscape context, areas providing a gradual transition zone between salt and freshwater ecosystems are more scarce within the seacoast than open bodies of freshwater.
22. It was observed by an audience member that Alternative B seems to be preferred by most people, and a cooperative effort will be needed to improve and protect the health of the pond.
23. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential downstream contamination of recently opened shellfish beds if the dam is removed. It was noted that higher tides and storm events could transport sediment to Hampton Harbor. The level of contamination in the sediment was a concern. It was felt that the dam should be repaired. It was explained by the project team that if Alternative C is selected, a sediment removal and stabilization plan would be implemented. The project team is very cognizant of the downstream sedimentation concern as expressed by the Town of Hampton.
24. It was asked if the air borne risks associated with placing/drying of dredged material upland was studied. This has not been reviewed at this time. Ted indicated he will review this with NHDES personnel.
25. It was asked if climate change and sea level increases were considered in the modeling. They have not been included in the hydraulic modeling but the team is very aware of the issue and risks posed to Seacoast region.
26. Several questions/comments arose relative to the DO concentration and the “health” of Taylor River Pond:
 - What is affecting the water quality and how can it be improved? The ponds act like settling basins; the phosphorous in the sediment encourages plant growth which depletes the pond of DO. Possible measures include aerating the water column, mechanical removal or chemical treatment of aquatic vegetation, and dredging sediments to removal accumulated phosphorous and contaminants and watershed protection actions.
 - It was stated that an additional alternative should be investigated to incorporate some of the measures above. It was stated from the audience that green/friendly chemicals have been used successfully in other states on east coast and in the south.
 - How long will the pond live? The exact timeframe is difficult to determine. However, the data indicates stressed conditions at this time.
 - It was noted that an adjacent farm is no longer in operation. This will help reduce pesticides. However, it was noted by the design team that some contaminants will remain for many years within the sediment and nutrients contained within the sediment are recycled into the water column.
 - Can stormwater runoff to pond be controlled? Will it help with water quality? Yes; the project team can investigate ways to reduce containments carried by stormwater to enter the pond or the river system and a whole.

Interstate 95 Bridge over the Taylor River and
Taylor River Pond Dam, Hampton Falls, Hampton, NH

Public Meeting

November 10, 2009, 7:00pm

Sign-in Sheet

Name	Title	Town / Affiliation	Telephone	Email
Aubry Bacco	Seacoast Media	Hampton Falls		
Dick Robinson	Road Agent	Hampton Falls	957 0901	
Wayne Barker		Hampton Falls	926-5450	
Jay M Lord	Fire Chief - HF	Hampton Falls	926-5752	chief@hffd.org
LARRY SMITH	HF VP PO	Hampton Falls	929-0533	
BRIAN CARL BACKLIEFF	Home owners	Hampton	926-1712	
Marion Lane	Home owners	Hampton	926-5696	
MARK GERRARD	Hampton Town Attorney	Hampton	929-5816	mgerrard@town.hampton.nh
Bev. Hollingsworth	Executive Council Dist 3	Hampton	926-4886	bevhollingsworth@town.hampton.nh
BARBARA KRANTZ	RPC Commissioner - Alt.	Hampton	926-0420	
Susan Kane Driscoll	Expomark Inc		781-393 1852	sdriscoll@expomark.com
TUPPER LINDER	NHMS		603-647-1800	elinder@nhms.com

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Name	Title	Town / Affiliation	Telephone	Email
Charlene Macdonald	Home owner A.T.R.E.	Hampton	603-929-3649	charlenemac@comcast.net
Nike Harty	Homeowner - 500'	Hampton Falls	603-591-8403	h/harty101@comcast.net
Barbara Leonard	Commissioner	Hampton Car Comm	603-926-3814	Renaud888@comcast.net
Larry & Jan Rane	Home owners	Hampton Falls	603-926-3031	EG-RANE@comcast.net
John Rulli	Home Owner	Hampton	603-396-3311	jruilli@comcast.net
Catherine Boston	Homeowner	Hampton	603-926-9510	catherine.boston@comcast.net
Anne Corbin	"	Exeter	603-778-0357	westadlesoon@attol.com
Beverly Nutrie	Home Property Owner	Hampton Falls	603 926 9081	bmtrie@btmail.com
DAVID FRENCH	HISTORICAL SOCIETY VP	"	603 926 8470	FRENCHMANUH@YANCO.COM
TEP TOCCI	HERITAGE COMMISSION CHAIR	"	603-772-1889	MACINTOCCI@COMCAST.NET
Mike Droune	Commissioner Rick Kuchuk, Division Chief, FISH & WILDLIFE	Hampton Falls	603-868-1095	michael.droune@wildlife.nh.gov
Jim Albert	Marine Biologist	NH Fish & Game	603-929-4488	sim.albert@comcast.net

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Name	Title	Town / Affiliation	Telephone	Email
Peter Tilton		Hampton Conservation Club	926-3516	petedot@att.net
KAREN AYERS	HF Conservation Chair	HF	580-1551	Kayersn@comcast.net
Richard McDevitt	Schoolman HF	HF	926-4003	NAMU@myfairpoint.net
Rep Susan Lagan	Rep Hampton Hampton Falls	Hampton	926-3051	sue.rep@comcast.net
Shelley C. Kennedy	Historical Society Hampton Falls	Hampton Falls	929-1878	seacoaster@comcast.net
Gayle M. Szabo	Historical Society	Hampton Falls	772-4004	gszabo@myfairpoint.net
Scott Simonds		HAMPTON	929-4706	SCOTT.SIMONDS@gmail.com
Lillian Walker	GENERATION TRUSTEE	Hampton Falls	772-3987	—
FRANK CHAMBERLIN	Homeowner	HAMPTON	928-8383	FJ@1941@Yahoo.com
Lorraine Barasso	Homeowner	Hampton	978-706168	UKSMILE2000@yahoo.com
Al Legendre	Homeowner Friend	Hampton	603-957-2051	al.legendre@fpl.com
Donna Demara	Homeowner	Hampton	603-918-7517	ddemara200@comcast.net

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Name	Title	Town / Affiliation	Telephone	Email
FRED WELCH	Town Planner	Town of Hampton		
JAMIE STEFFEN	TOWN PLANNER	TOWN OF HAMPTON	929-5913	jsteffen@town.hampton.nh.us
Wendy Bamberg	RPC Rep	Hampton	929-4322	WTBAM@COMCAST.NET
STEVE DOYON	DAM SAFETY ENG.	NH DES	271-1966	steve.doyon@des.nh.gov
Craig Wood	Consultant	Louis Berger Group	644-5200	cwood@louisberger.com
David Walker	Rakingham Planning Company	Senior Turnp. Position	778-0885	dwalker@spc-nh.org
John Feltner				
Matt Collins	Hydrologist	NDAAG	281-9142	Matt.collins@notk.gov
Greg Parish		Hampton Falls		
Amy Perkins	State Legislator Dist 14	Seabrook Hampton Falls	474-6588	KOKONAMY@comcast.net
Kevin Lucey	NHDES - Restoration Coordinator	Kensington S. Hampton	603 559-0026	kevin.lucey@des.nh.gov
Jennifer Hunter	Director	NHDES	862 3948	jennifer.hunter@unh.edu



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Name	Title	Town / Affiliation	Telephone	Email
Steve Huebner	GBTU, Conservation	Stratham, NH	603-502-3883	Stephen.huebner@gmail.com
Dore Perkins		Hampton NH		
STEVE SZYDLO		H-Falls, N.H.		
Mark DeFeo		Hampton NH	603-926-6173	helfesttail@comcast.net
LISA DeFeo		Hampton, NH	603-926-6173	littleladyfinger2@comcast.net
Allison Orzechowski		Hampton Falls	603-929-2832	allisono@comcast.net
Jean Provencher		Hampton	603-926-2329	
Frances Paul	Homeowner	Hampton	603-926-5005	
George L. Paul	Homeowner	Hampton	603-926-5005	
STEVEN HURD	Landowner	Hampton	603-929-0713	
JEFF BARNUM	Coastal Conservation Association of NH	Stratham	770 3201	jjbarnum@comcast.net
MITCH KALTER	GREAT BAY TROUT UNLIMITED	Durham	743-9080	M. KALTER@COMCAST.NET

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Name	Title	Town / Affiliation	Telephone	Email
K. MANTSIOS	HOMEOWNER	HAMPTON FALLS	603 929-0895	DINODEN76@AOL.COM
J. A. MELVILLE	HOMEOWNER	Hampton Falls	603-926-2902	AHABNH@AOL.COM
S. VOLPONE	" "	" "	603-926-4430	SCVOLPONE@COMCAST.NET
L. Boccelli	" "	Hampton	603-661-6491	lbocce11@Comcast
M. Boccelli	" "	Hampton	11 11 11	MJBocce11@comcast